



## Labor and Workforce Development

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## Massachusetts Adds 2,900 Jobs in May

### Unemployment Rate at 4.2 Percent

**BOSTON, MA** – *The state's total unemployment rate increased to 4.2 percent in May* from the April rate of 3.9 percent, the Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development announced Thursday.

*The preliminary job estimates from the Bureau of Labor Statistics indicate Massachusetts added 2,900 jobs in May.* Over the month job gains occurred in Education and Health Services; Leisure and Hospitality; Professional, Scientific, and Business Services; Information; and Construction. The April estimate was revised to a loss of 800 jobs.

From May 2016 to May 2017, BLS estimates Massachusetts has added 58,300 jobs.

The May state unemployment rate remains lower than the national rate of 4.3 percent reported by the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

"During 2017 Massachusetts continues to experience large increases in the labor force. May's labor force participation rate of 66.7%, the highest rate since October 2008, allows for ongoing economic growth. As the pool of people actively searching for work increases, our workforce development agencies remain focused on ensuring that the next generation of job seekers have access to next generation job training," Labor and Workforce Development Secretary Ronald L. Walker, II said.

The labor force increased by 17,100 from 3,694,200 in April, as 4,900 more residents were employed and 12,200 more residents were unemployed over the month.

Over the year, the state's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate increased four-tenths of a percentage point from 3.8 percent in May 2016. There were 17,300 more unemployed persons over the year compared to May 2016.

The state's labor force participation rate – the total number of residents 16 or older who worked or were unemployed and actively sought work in the last four weeks – increased two-tenths of a percentage point to 66.7 percent over the month. The labor force participation rate over the year has increased 1.7 percent compared to May 2016.

The largest private sector percentage job gains over the year were in Information; Construction; Professional, Scientific and Business Services; and Education and Health Services.

### May 2017 Employment Overview

**Education and Health Services** added 2,500 (+0.3%) jobs over the month. Over the year, Education and Health Services gained 19,100 (+2.4%) jobs.

**Leisure and Hospitality** gained 1,300 jobs (+0.4%) over the month. Over the year, Leisure and Hospitality lost 200 (-0.1%) jobs.

**Professional, Scientific and Business Services** added 500 (+0.1%) jobs over the month. Over the year, Professional, Scientific and Business Services added 16,700 (+3.1%) jobs.

**Information** added 500 (+0.6%) jobs over the month. Over the year, Information gained 4,300 (+5.0%) jobs.

**Construction** added 300 (+0.2%) jobs over the month. Over the year, Construction has added 4,800 (+3.3%) jobs.

**Trade, Transportation and Utilities** lost 800 (-0.1%) jobs over the month. Over the year, Trade, Transportation and Utilities gained 3,900 (+0.7%) jobs.

**Other Services** lost 700 (-0.5%) jobs over the month. Over the year, Other Services are up 1,300 (+1.0%) jobs.

**Financial Activities** lost 600 (-0.3%) jobs over the month. Over the year, Financial Activities gained 4,800 (+2.2%) jobs.

**Manufacturing** lost 200 (-0.1%) jobs over the month. Over the year, Manufacturing lost 1,900 (-0.8%) jobs.

**Government** jobs level remained unchanged (0.0%) jobs over the month. Over the year, Government gained 5,400 (+1.2%) jobs.

### Labor Force Overview


The May estimates show 3,556,000 Massachusetts residents were employed and 155,300 were unemployed, for a total labor force of 3,711,300. The unemployment rate was 4.2 percent. The May labor force increased by 17,100 from

3,694,200 in April, as 4,900 more residents were employed and 12,200 more residents were unemployed over the month. The labor force participation rate, the share of working age population employed and unemployed, was 66.7 percent. The labor force was up 123,800 from the 3,587,500 May 2016 estimate, with 106,600 more residents employed and 17,300 more residents unemployed.

The unemployment rate is based on a monthly sample of households. The job estimates are derived from a monthly sample survey of employers. As a result, the two statistics may exhibit different monthly trends.

**NOTES:**

The labor force is the sum of the numbers of employed residents and those unemployed, that is residents not working but actively seeking work in the last four weeks. Estimates may not add up to the total labor force due to rounding.

*Local area unemployment statistics for May 2017 will be released on Tuesday, June 20, 2017. The preliminary June 2017 and revised May 2017 unemployment rate, labor force and job estimates for Massachusetts will be released on Thursday, July 20, 2017. See the [2017 Revised Media Advisory annual schedule](#)  for a complete list of release dates.*

Detailed labor market information is available at [www.mass.gov/lmi](http://www.mass.gov/lmi).

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